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REPORT
OF
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE
COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES
IN SOUTH CAROLINA

April 13, 1962

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I

INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTION

The committee continued its practice of past years of maintaining liaison with law enforcement agencies, especially the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, with respect to investigating any reports of communist activities of subversive matters. All communications received by the committee were in turn transmitted to proper law enforcement agencies for investigation. No situation arose which in the committee's judgment warranted use of the committee's subpoena powers or justified a public hearing.

II

EDUCATIONAL MISSION

In a Concurrent Resolution adopted May 10, 1961, this committee was requested to develop and execute an educational program to inform the people of the State of South Carolina of the threat of communism to the national security.

This mission—when viewed in terms of the total threat of international communism, including the threat posed by the communist elements in the United States—requires that this committee develop and execute programs designed to clarify the external threat and, at the same time, judiciously expose and neutralize the subversive propaganda and related activities which form a part of the internal menace of communism.

It is readily apparent that the programs of this committee could have only a remote effect upon the external forces of communism; consequently, the committee's area of effective action is primarily limited to the internal threat posed by Communist organizations, Communist-front groups, and individuals who knowingly adhere to the Communist Party line.

At the outset, the committee recognized that a tremendous responsibility had been assigned and one that could never be finally concluded but would, on the contrary, have to be a continuing educational program. The limitations of personnel, money and abilities were quite apparent when the committee considered means of fulfilling its legislative assigned responsibility.

Certain basic principles in regard to an educational program were recognized. These included:

1. Programs should promote the basic fundamentals of Americanism rather than merely oppose or expose communism.
2. Programs should be designed to reach all citizens, adults as well as students.
3. Adult programs should be of a continuing nature, and should be constantly revised to meet the day-to-day challenge of subversive propaganda and communist-inspired activities. As is well known, the Communists are extremely persistent in the day-to-day promotion of communist-serving propaganda supporting the Party line tactics of the moment. Our citizens should be kept informed and alert concerning these communist-directed maneuvers.
4. There should be one or more reliable vehicles for systematically communicating these programs to the public. It is worthwhile to note that the Communists use a multitude of controlled organizations to inject subversive propaganda and communist-serving activities into all major segments of American life. In fact, their effectiveness, to a large extent, can be attributed to this highly organized method of operation.
5. All loyal Americans should unite in this struggle against the communist conspiracy. We should firmly agree on objectives rather than violently disagree on methods. We, as a people, should tell the world what is right with America and, therefore, what is wrong with Communism.

Keeping the above factors in mind, this committee sought an effective method for placing adequate programs before the public. First, it was recognized that the committee, by itself, had only a limited capability for developing programs of a desirable scope. Second, the committee was not an appropriate vehicle for executing public programs on a continuing state-wide basis. Finally, there was some question as to whether a committee of the General Assembly should directly control educational programs to be used in our schools and by the public at large and, thus, set what might become a precedent for State-controlled education—plus the fact that such control might encourage some persons to allege that the programs were developed primarily for reasons of political advantage or other improper motives.

The committee decided that because of the limitations above set forth, that it could best serve to enlist the support of persons and organizations to accomplish the educational objective.

Likewise, the committee considered a proposal to require the teaching of a course or courses in the public school curriculum designed to show the advantages of Democracy vs. Communism. It was noted that several states have adopted similar legislation. It was the committee's judgment, however, that because of many factors, including a possible lack of adequately trained teachers, that this program should be encouraged on a voluntary basis for a period of at least one year. Accordingly, the committee sponsored a Resolution requesting the State Department of Education to encourage the inclusion of courses showing the relative merits of Democracy vs. Communism in the curriculum of all high schools. This Resolution and its intent has the endorsement of the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Anderson.

Likewise, conferences were held with appropriate members of the faculty and staff of the University of South Carolina for the purpose of encouraging the establishment of summer school workshops or training courses for teachers which would enable them properly to teach the dangers of communism.

The committee, again seeking maximum assistance from all sources, held a series of meetings with South Carolina Alert, Incorporated. This organization is a tax-exempt, non-profit, non-political, educational organization designed purely to educate and alert the people of South Carolina to the dangers of international communism. Its Steering Committee includes 25 outstanding citizens from all parts of the state, including the heads of all of our state supported institutions.

After considerable discussion which resulted in both groups recognizing a complete identity of educational objectives, it was decided that the two groups should sponsor jointly the educational program which this committee was responsible for developing and executing.

The advantages of a joint undertaking are many, including economy, the enlisting of outstanding citizens in a positive educational program and the elimination of the possible objection listed above, the committee being branded as a government propaganda or political agency.

Accordingly, the two groups agreed to the establishment of a joint office to serve as a coordinating agency for the development and execution of educational programs in the area of Americanism vs. Communism. The two committees jointly employed an Executive Secretary, retired Army Colonel John W. Sappington. Likewise, the two committees agreed upon a joint budget with each group agreeing to contribute one-half of the budget, the Legislative group's commit-

ment being conditioned, of course, upon the necessary amount (\$10,000.00) being appropriated by this year's General Assembly.

Since the establishment of the joint operation, a continuing program of promoting the educational aspects of Americanism vs. Communism has been made. The office has served as a coordinating agency and information center for the many groups and individuals interested in combatting communism. Plans have been made for a state-wide seminar or conference to be held to awaken further interest and assistance in showing all American citizens of the dangers of Communism and the blessings of Americanism.

Unfortunately, well-meaning individuals have sought to criticize the joint operation. It is the committee's thinking that the matter of technical or administrative details should not be permitted to defeat necessary and worthwhile objectives. The need for effective organization is too great and the menace too dire to afford the luxury of petty squabbling over methods.

Perhaps it would not be amiss to remind members of the General Assembly of some of the immediate and startling positions of the Communist creed, philosophy and objectives. The following excerpts are taken from a book "Toward Soviet America" by William Z. Foster, former National Chairman of the Communist Party in the United States:

"From capitalism to Communism, through the intermediary stage of Socialism; that is the way American society, like society in general, is headed. (Pg. 269.)

"The American Soviet government will be organized along the broad lines of the Russian Soviets. (Pgs. 271-2.)

"Under the dictatorship all capitalist parties—Republican, Democratic, Progressive, Socialist, etc.—will be liquidated. Likewise, will be dissolved all other organizations that are political props * * * including chambers of commerce, employers' associations, Rotary clubs, American Legion, Y. M. C. A., and such fraternal orders as the Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks, Knights of Columbus, etc. (Pg. 275.)

"The Soviet court system will be simple, speedy and direct. * * * The pest of lawyers will be abolished. (Pg. 273.)

"In the so-called Black Belt of the South, where the Negroes are in the majority, they will have the fullest right to govern themselves and also such white minorities as may live in this section. (Pg. 304.)

"Religious schools will be abolished and organized religious training for minors prohibited. Freedom will be established for anti-religious propaganda. (Pg. 316.)

"Science will become materialistic, hence truly scientific; God will be banished from the laboratories as well as from the schools. (Pg. 317.)

"The Russian woman is also free in her sex life, * * * the free American woman, like her Russian sister, will eventually scorn the whole fabric of bourgeois sex hypocrisy and prudery. (Pg. 308.)

"American imperialism is now strong. * * * But their assurance is not now quite so sure as it was a couple of years ago, * * *. But they console themselves with the thought that 'it can never happen in this country,' and they scorn the at-present weak Communist Party. But they overlook the detail that the same attitude was taken toward the pre-revolution Bolsheviki." (Pgs. 342-3.)

CONCLUSION

With these publicly stated goals of the Communist Party available to us all, it behooves all right-thinking Americans to take some positive action to keep intact our way of life. If the work of this committee can be continued and can contribute slightly toward that goal, it will in our opinion be a worthwhile effort.

In view of the action taken by the House of Representatives it was felt by the House members of the committee that they were under a mandate from their body to terminate the joint participation with South Carolina Alert, with reference to administrative and financial matters. Whereupon the committee decided to look into the possibility of hiring a full time employee, with an as experienced a background as possible, to aid the committee in the educational phase of its duties. It was thought that such arrangement would be beneficial in the dissemination and accumulation of materials affecting this phase of the committee's responsibility and through such efforts serve as a clearing house for individuals, organizations and schools throughout the State of South Carolina, who desire to become better informed as to the communist threat; this office to serve to coordinate individuals and organizations interested in promoting anti-communist activities.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ JOHN C. WEST, *Chairman,*

/s/ FRANCIS C. JONES,

/s/ REMBERT C. DENNIS,

/s/ PAUL S. MCCHESENEY, JR., *Vice-Chairman,*

/s/ GEORGE E. CAMPSER, JR., *Secretary,*

/s/ E. CROSBY LEWIS.

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